In addition, Government is also implementing the INDUS Project in 21 districts of the country. It is a joint project of Government of India and US Department of Labour. It is based on NCLP Scheme with certain additional features like Vocational Training for adolescents in the age group of 14-17 years. In addition to these Projects, Government is also implementing the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations in the districts, which are not covered under NCLP/INDUS Projects.

(d) The expenditure incurred on implementation of various Schemes aimed to rehabilitate child labour during the last three years has been given in the statement.

Statement

Expenditure under various schemes implemented by Child Labour Division during last three financial years

1. National Child Labour Project Scheme Including Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies

Year	Actual expenditure (Rs. in crores)
2004-05	83.09
2005-06	102.31
2006-07	110.52

2. Indo-US Matching Grant (Now Renamed as Indus Project) (Project was launched on 16.02.2004)

Year	Actual expenditure (Rs. in crores)
2004-05	10
2005-06	12.74
2006-07	10.81

Introducing institutional changes in child labour law

†1734. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that total elimination of child labour is not possible without introducing institutional changes in the existing law;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has been receiving suggestions/ complaints from various experts for comprehensive improvement in the said law, the details in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to bring a new act to do away the above shortcomings; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

employment of children in hazardous occupations and processes and regulates their working in others. Government is committed to elimination of child labour in all its forms. However, considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government is following a sequential approach of initially withdrawing and rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations and processes.

(b) Yes, Sir. Suggestions are received from time to time from State Governments and other authorities. Some of these suggestions include fixing a minimum age for employment, prohibiting all forms of child labour, redefining child as a person below the age of 18 years, setting up of Special Courts for child labour cases, raising the penalties, making specific provisions to cover the offence of trafficking of children for labour, etc.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal presently under the consideration of the Government to bring in new legislation. However, consultations are held with State Government and other stakeholders on the suggestions received.

EPE investment in Stock market

1735. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmen as decided to keep open its option to invest 5 per cent of the Employees Provident Fund in the Stock market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that trade unions have not agreed for this proposal; and

(d) if so, the details of the discussions held with the Central trade unions and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund in which central trade unions are represented, in its 178th meeting has resolved not to exercise the option of investing 5% of the Employees' Provident Fund monies in equities.

Effect of labour training on productivity

†1736: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production in the country may be raised upto 61% by increasing 10% expenditure of GDP on labour training;

(b) if not, assessment of Government in this regard; and

(c) the quantum of amount increased by Government in the funds earmarked for the expansion and development of training programme meant for augmentation of labour skill from 2004-05 to 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Agriculture, Industry & Services sectors are the

†riginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.